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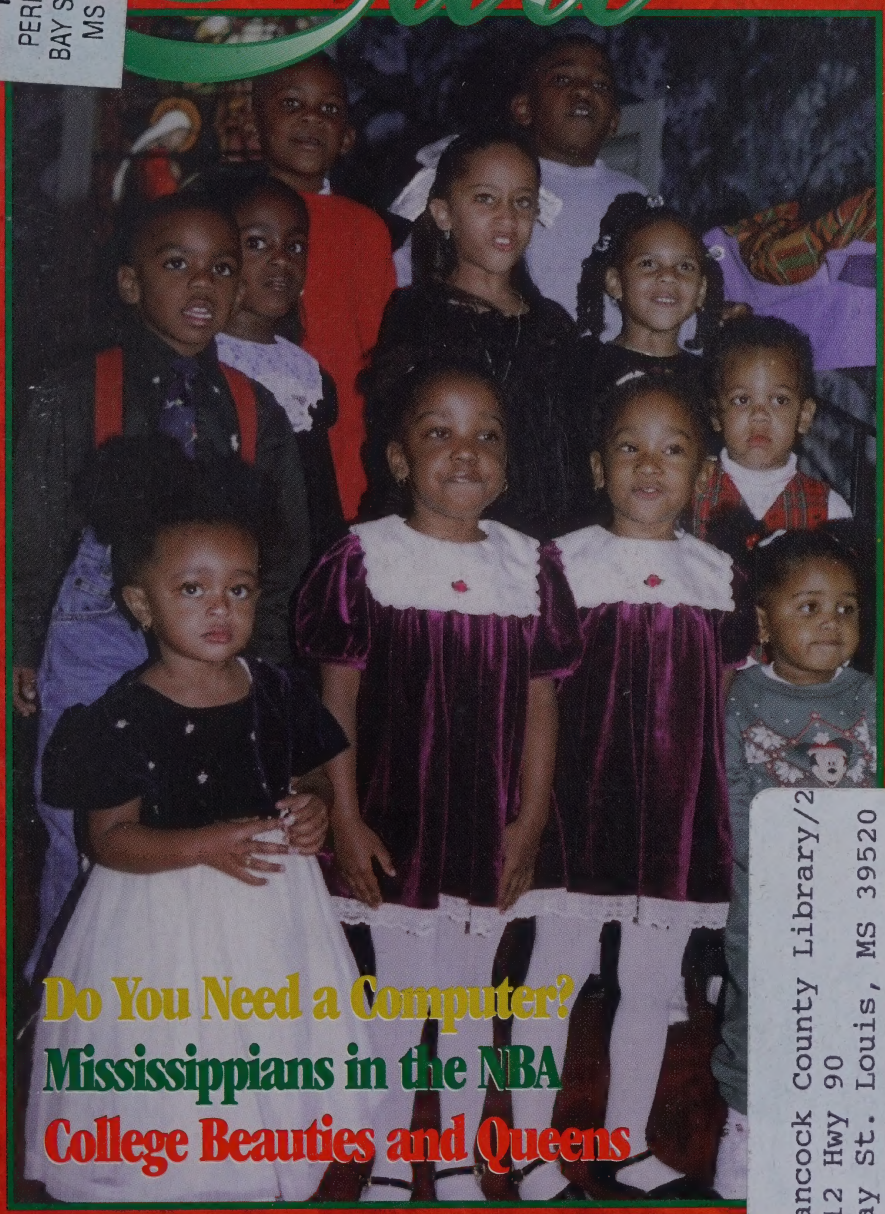

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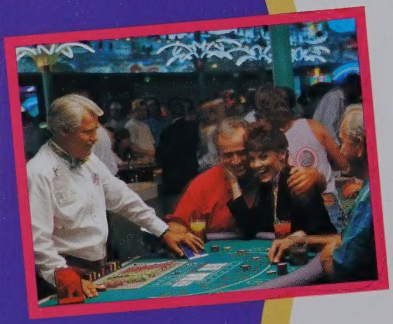

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MISSISSIPPI Star

VOL.2 NO. 4

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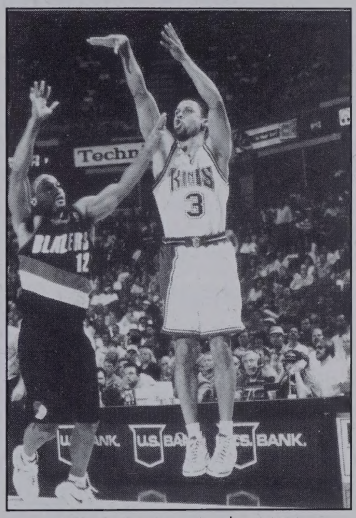

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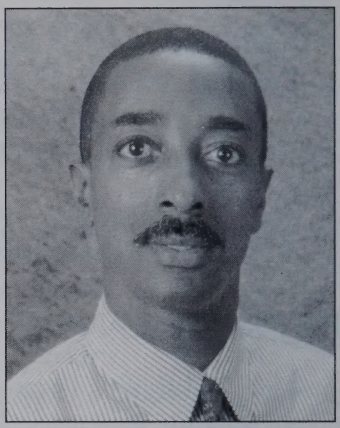

Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

A Holiday Message...

As this holiday season approaches, I find myself reflecting on many things - events of the past year, my family, my church, my hometown, the state of Mississippi and our country. I must say that this has been a very good year.

From a business standpoint, Mississippi Star celebrated its first anniversary with the September issue. Subscriptions and advertising sales grew and continue to grow at healthy rates.

My alma mater, the University of Southern Mississippi football team won the Conference USA title and will be playing Pittsburgh on New Year's Eve in the Liberty Bowl in Memphis. Congratulations and best wishes to the Golden Eagles and Coach Jeff Bowers.

During the year, I was fortunate to spend quality time with family, including my wife and three sons, my parents, my wife's parents, and each of my eight sisters and two brothers, and each niece and nephew. In the past, particularly when we lived on the West Coast, this was very rare.

I read several good books during the year and saw a few good movies, including the Fall hit *Soul Food.* I also had the opportunity to see Greg Thompson's *Motor City Rhythm and Blues* at the Biloxi Grand Theater, and I plan to take visiting family and friends to see it during the holidays. I plan to go to the movies to see the Debbie Allen produced *Amistad* during the next few weeks, and I look forward to seeing *Buffalo Soldier* on one of TV's movie channels. Also, one of my sons has recommended that we rent the movie *The Sixth Man* for family viewing.

With the coming together of family and friends, great food, good entertainment opportunities and the Liberty Bowl Game on television, I anticipate a busy and joyous holiday season.

I hope you enjoy the recipe (page 7) that comes from the family files of a friend of Mississippi Star.

Best wishes for a safe and Happy Holiday! MS

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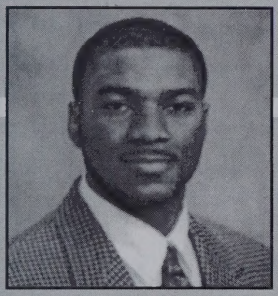

Shannon Garrett
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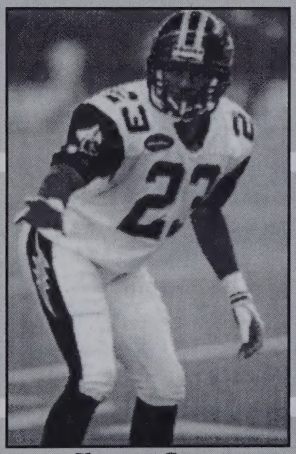
Six months out of the year Shannon Garrett is a loan officer at our Gulfport Branch. The other six months he is a defensive back for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

At the Peoples Bank, we have been putting people first for 100 years. In Shannon's case that means holding his job for him while he plays football in Canada each year.

The next time you're in our Gulfport Branch, be sure to say hi to Shannon and wish him luck in the upcoming season!



Shannon Garrett
Defensive Back
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LETTERS

Congratulations Mississippi Star!...

One year later and your star continues to shine brightly in our community. I have been an avid reader of Mississippi Star since the onset and could not wait to renew my subscription. The magazine continues to be very informative and has maintained its character and integrity. The writing style of the magazine is great! The articles are not boring or filled with useless words, but full of energy, excitement and compassion.

Glenda Singleton's "Guest Word" was excellent. Her article in the November issue on leaders in the NFL was superb. It was very personable; you could feel her sensitivity and respect for the players in each sentence. She is definitely a PLUS to Mississippi Star. I look forward to reading more of her material in the future.

Hats off to all of you. I hope and pray Mississippi Star's rays continue to touch and affect positively.

Wendy Robinson
Biloxi, MS

• •

I received my first issue of Mississippi Star, and I especially enjoyed reading about Mary V. Clarke. What a beautiful lady she is!

If you know of a similar magazine in or for Louisiana, please let me know. I know several kids who would benefit from reading about such positive role models and some adults who would be interesting copy.

Keep up the good work.

Edie Eason
Covington, LA

MISSISSIPPI Star

PUBLISHER
Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

ART DIRECTOR
BUCHANAN/FONTAINE
Marketing.Communications.Design

ADVERTISING
Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

BUSINESS MANAGER
Vonretta Singleton

Mississippi Star

Newsstand price:
$2.00
Annual subscription rate:
$16.00

For subscriptions, back issues and advertising inquiries please contact:

Mississippi Star
Post Office Box 2651
Bay St. Louis, MS 39521
601-463-1200

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Holiday Recipe!
OKRA GUMBO

Ingredients I
3 lbs. fresh okra

Ingredients II
1/2 cup shortening
2 tbsp. flour
1 tsp. salt

Ingredients III
4 cloves garlic
3/4 tsp. tyme leaves
1/2 tsp. paprika
6 hot red peppers
3 tbsp. Louisiana Hot Sauce
1 8 oz. can tomato sauce

Ingredients IV
1 lb. med. - lrg. shrimp
1 lb. cooked ham
1 lb. smoked sausage

After washing and slicing okra, fry in large pan in 1/4 cup of oil on low heat for about thirty minutes or until brown. Pour off excess grease and slime and add okra to large pot containing two quarts of water and cook on medium heat.

Prepare roux using ingredients II. Heat shortening in frying pan; add onion, salt, and then add flour slowly, stirring continuously until brown. As mixture turns brown, stir in about 1/2 cup of water. Mix roux with okra and allow to cook for thirty minutes.

Add Ingredients III and allow to cook for additional thirty minutes.

Fry sausage and ham in 1/2 cup of water until brown. Peel, devein and wash shrimp. Add shrimp, ham and sausage to okra and cook on low heat for about an hour. Serve over rice.

Enjoy!

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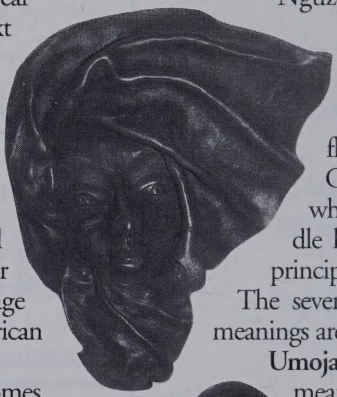
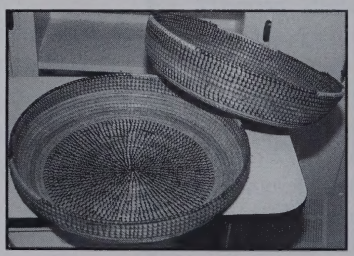
CELEBRATE KWANZAA!

The last six days of the year and the first day of the next year is a period designated for Kwanzaa celebrations across the United States and in several other countries. Millions of African Americans participate in community activities as well as celebrations in their homes which encourage appreciation for their African history and customs.



The word Kwanzaa comes from the Swahili language and means "first fruits of the harvest." Kwanzaa, which was started by Dr. Maulana Karenga first took place in 1966.

Dr. Karenga's goal was to develop a holiday, a common celebration which would allow African Americans to come together for a shared experience of learning about their ancestry and history.



There is no single way to celebrate Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa celebrations vary from house to house and communities. People have developed their own customs and ways to celebrate Kwanzaa. Some of the constants are the Nguzo Saba which is a Swahili term for the seven principles; the bendera which is the red, green and black flag created by Marcus Garvey; and the kinara which is a seven-slot candle holder for each of the principles.

The seven principles and their meanings are as follows:

Umoja stands for Unity. It means helping each other stay together as families, communities, a nation, and a race.

Kujichagulia stands for Self-Determination. This is the right to decide who we are, what our names will be, what we will become, and what we will create for ourselves.

Ujima means Collective Work and Responsibility. This means we should build and take care of our communities. We should work together to solve our problems.

Ujamaa means Cooperative Economics. This means that we should build and maintain our own stores,

shops and businesses. We should profit from them together.

Nia stands for Purpose. Our purpose should be to make our people and communities as great as they can be. We can do this by taking care of our homes and communities and developing skills and knowledge of all our people.

Kuumba means Creativity. As African American people we should do as much as we can, in our unique way, to make our homes and communities more successful and beautiful.

Imani stands for Faith. We strive to believe with all our hearts in the worth of African Americans. We believe in the struggle and victory of our people. MS

Your local library has several books about Kwanzaa and suggestions for planning and celebrating Kwanzaa. *See page 10 for summaries on three books on the topic that might offer ideas to help make Kwanzaa a special holiday for your family. Celebrating KWANZAA*

GULF COAST KWANZAA CELEBRATION

Friday, December 26 - Unity
Isiah Fredericks Community Center

◆

Saturday, December 27 - Self-Determination
Telling Our Story/Rememberin Our History
Division Street Community Center

◆

Sunday, December 28 - Collective Work & Responsibility
Isiah Fredericks Community Center

◆

Monday, December 29 - Cooperative Economics
Black Business Fair
Isiah Fredericks Center (6:30pm)

◆

Tuesday, December 30 - Purpose
Gospel Concert with Eric Funchess & The Youth Crusade Choir
Isaiah Fredericks Community Center (6:30pm)

◆

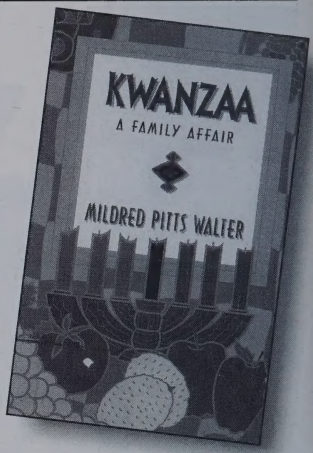
Wednesday, December 31 - Creativity
Poetry Reading/Art Gallery
St. Marks United Methodist Church (6:30pm)

◆

Thursday, January 1 - Faith
Emancipation Proclamation & Gulfside Assembly 75th Anniversary
Gulfside Assembly in Waveland (11:00am)

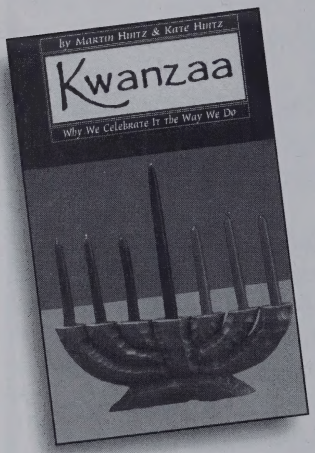
BOOKS

KWANZAA: *A Family Affair*



by Mildred Pitts Walter

Kwanzaa: A Family Affair (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books New York, $13.00) provides a history of Kwanzaa as well as its purpose, and suggestions for families to create cultural traditions. It also includes recipes of dishes which have become associated with Kwanzaa, such as yam chips and Benne Wafers.



KWANZAA: *Why We Celebrate It The Way We Do*

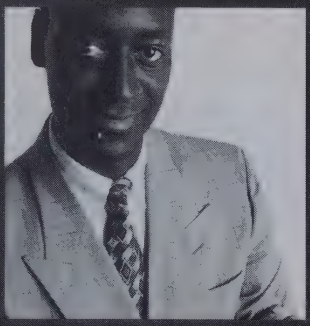
by Martin Hintz and Kat Hintz

Kwanzaa: Why We Celebrate It The Way We Do (Capstone Press) uses color and black and white photographs to illustrate the richness of the Kwanzaa holiday. It provides a simplistic approach to planning a celebration along with glossary of the African and English terms that are associated with Kwanzaa.

Celebrating Kwanzaa:

by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith and photographs by Lawrence Migdale

Celebrating Kwanzaa (A Holiday House Book, 1993) uses all color photographs to illustrate the faces of pride of people celebrating KWanzaa. It follows a normal family's daily routines through each of the seven Kwanzaa principles. Each photograph has been very well planned and thought out and relates strongly to its respective principle. A photograph of Maulana Karenga, the founder of Kwanzaa is included along with a brief history of the holiday.



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PEOPLE

Rosemary Woullard

Rosemary Woullard received Pearl River Community College's 1997 Humanities Teacher Award. The award is sponsored by The Mississippi Humanities Council in recognition of Mississippi scholars who labor diligently in the disciplines of humanities and share their knowledge in the classroom and with the public.

Woullard is an English instructor at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville who is active in many organizations that support better public education. She is currently president of Alpha Gamma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, parliamentarian of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, a member of USM Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, and serves on the Strategic Planning Committee for The Hattiesburg Area Education Foundation. Her willingness to share her expertise with the community is evident in her educational affiliations.

Annually, The Mississippi Humanities Council recognizes an outstanding humanities faculty member during October in celebration of Arts and Humanities month and provides an award of $500 to the teacher.

Woullard received the award after her presentation of "It's All in the Family" hosted by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at PRCC's Science Auditorium on October 28. Woullard presented ways to use oral and family histories to enliven classrooms, family gatherings and communities.

She taught participants ways to collect and organize family and local information which can be published and which will preserve the oral histories of families, as well as organize a pictorial record of family events.

Woullard's Family Tree Project has taken her to London, Vancouver and many other places as a presenter.

"You could organize a community Historical Society to publish your collections, or even produce a vertical filefolder for your local library," said Woullard. "Students can collect family stories to be used in their classroom writings. Family members may use aspects of the material in their own courses," she added.

Woullard says Family Tree Project helps bring families closer together. MS

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Flashing Lights

by Robin Alfred Midcalf

I knew the day was coming. In fact, I had eighteen years of preparation; nevertheless, I wasn't ready. We got up early Sunday morning on August 10, 1997. The plan had been to get to bed early, rise early, and "hit the road." However, things didn't go quite like we had planned. My one and only child is leaving for college n a few short hours and, guess what, she isn't packed. Oh, I had done my motherly thing. I had all the toiletries, food and other essential items packed. I had even taken her clothes and laid them neatly in stacks on the living room couch, loveseat, coffee table and even the dining room table was overflowing with her things. You would think her packing would have been made easier. NOT!

Well, we finally got everything packed around 2:00 a.m., and I got up around 5:00 a.m. I let daughter Ebony sleep as long as possible. Ebony would be driving her car four hours, and, of course, I was concerned about her getting sleepy at the wheel. We rode in tandem with Ebony's friend and future roommate, Natalie, and Natalie's mother.

The first thing that struck my attention or my thoughts as we pulled onto the highway was here we are - four black women (there was another woman with us, more on her later) embarking on a monumental (and emotional) mark in all of our lives.

ROBIN ALFRED MIDCALF

You see, Jane and I were taking our daughters to college, my only child and Jane's youngest child; I couldn't help but notice the men were missing. Now don't get me wrong, not just any men, the fathers, the girls' fathers. Because I didn't get permission, I won't beat up on the absence of Natalie's father. However, I don't need permission and I will express my anger, disappointment and sadness over the absence of Ebony's father.

I was and still am angry over George's absence. I didn't really expect him to be there physically (but there's nothing wrong with that expectation, either). He could have called, he could have given Ebony moral sup-

port, and, heaven forbid, even a little financial support would have been welcome. Is that too much to expect of a father whose daughter had maintained a school career of academic honor and, more importantly, had become a beautiful (inside and out) and respectful young woman. Is that simply too much to expect from a father? I suppose for us it is too much. I still have hope, though, for Ebony's sake. You see, she loves her father, and I guess for no other reason than the simple fact that he is her father, she should and I encourage that love. To date, though, Ebony nor I have heard from George. George lives in New Jersey and some of his local friends in Mississippi refer to him as "big money" George. I find the reference disgusting. Well, if he is, "big money" then, I wish one of his friends would encourage him to send the child support he owes. Of course, it's well over $15,000 by now. I haven't brought the figures up to date for 1997.

All right, enough of my whining about the finances and George, the absent father. We all have those troubles (financial). But, I must say, it really pains my heart that I can give my daughter my love and plenty of "things," but I can't give her the father she always yearned. For that Ebony, I apologize. I was too young to even assess a man for father potential. (That's another article!) I just hope Ebony and all other young women learn from my mistake or mistakes; you see, I've made plenty along the way.

Starkville is approximately four hours from Gulfport. I was the lead vehicle, followed by Ebony, Natalie and Jane. Ebony did manage to have her boyfriend, Joe, ride with her to Starkville. (I guess Joe is still in; you know how boyfriends change). I should mention that Joe was a BIG help. Joe has been reared by wonderful parents and a traditional strong male father, and it showed. Joe was there at every turn, helping ladies, mainly Ebony; but, that's okay, he was there. Oh yes, Ebony's favorite little guy, Kelly Edwards, age 4 was also with us to see his favorite sitter off to college. Kelly's mother, Yolanda, went along to offer me support.

We left out on Highway 49, and then took I-59 North in Hattiesburg to Meridian and on to Highway 45 North to Starkville. Yolanda had to take over the driving for Natalie as soon as I noticed from my rearview mirror her weaving in the lane behind. So, I guess Natalie didn't get much sleep, either. As we traveled on Highway 45 (two-laned highway), someone flashed their headlights. This, of course, was to warn us of troopers waiting beyond. I immediately slowed down and the tandem followed suit. Out of nowhere came the tears. Yes, you read right, tears. I started crying and I don't mean sniffling, I mean sobbing. Suddenly, it dawned on me, my baby, my little girl, my friend and trusted confidante was leaving. Someone told me once, when children leave for college, for all practical purposes, they are gone for good, and they only come home to visit. The realization of that statement and flashing lights really brought on the tears.

Let me explain the flashing lights and their impact. After the driver flashed the lights, it suddenly occurred to me, I had not ever discussed flashing headlights with Ebony. I feared she didn't know what the flashing headlights meant. So, here I am driving Ebony to college and I wonder what else have I forgotten or failed to tell or teach my child? My mind is now in a state of temporary havoc. I'm sobbing and praying out loud, "God, please fill in the gap for me. Please send people in her life where I have failed." I kept wondering what other little life things had I forgotten to teach Ebony.

Someone told me once, when children leave for college, for all practical purposes, they are gone for good, and they only come home to visit.

Of course, I finally had to find comfort in the fact that Ebony would be okay. God gives us these beautiful creatures (children), but only for a short time; then, they spread their wings and we must let them fly. I took comfort in the fact that I had a polite, sweet, loving, bright daughter. I had reared her to be honest, independent, and strong, yet compassionate and respectful. With a few more little lessons sprinkled here and there, I had done all I could do. It is now time for Ebony to make her own mark. I wish it was time for Ebony to pay some bills, too. That will come one day, I hope!

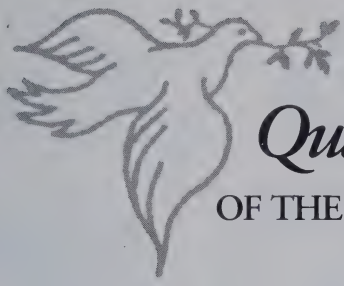
I still cry, though. The other morning while doing my laundry, I came across a shirt Ebony had left from her previous weekend visit. The shirt made me cry, for no apparent reason other than missing her at that moment. I still cry sometime when I lock the door at night. Ebony isn't coming home now so when I lock up for the night, it's just me and me. I no longer wait up for her because she's not here. The realization is finally sinking in my head.

I do miss my daughter, friend and confidante. I have no one at home to hug me now after a tough day or, on the other hand, no one at home to share exuberance over some particular event or accomplishment. Ebony was and still is my best friend. I long for mornings when I went into her bedroom and kissed her cheek.

Ebony and I have been together, just the two of us, since my divorce from her father when Ebony was eleven months. I feel a little sadness now that we don't talk everyday. I suppose she's too busy studying and enjoying college. She thought it was a bit much to expect her to call everyday. Maybe it was a bit much. She did call everyday for a while, especially when she was expecting a check or deposit into her account. Now, I hear from her at least two to three times a week. She did call me on my birthday, and, guess what, it was the first NON-COLLECT CALL I've received from her since she left for college. That was sweet, wasn't it?

Continued on page 30...

The Heart of Hospice is Love



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Campus Beat

LE CRISHA PEYTON is the reigning Miss Mississippi Valley State University. A senior elementary education major, Peyton is also serving her second term as the Student Government Association president at MVSU. She is active in Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society, the Mississippi Association of Educators and the National Association of Educators. Miss Peyton plays piano and sings for church and school events. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Peyton of Monticello.

LAURA MCINNIS, a psychology major from Mobile, Alabama was elected Miss University of Southern Mississippi in November. Laura is the daughter of Rolf and Sherry McInnis. She is a member of Chi Omega Sorority, the Student Government Association and Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies.

CHARLOTTE BU

EUNETTE GENTR

Jackson State Univers during the 1997-98 aca mic year. A senior m communications maj Gentry was chosen in campus-wide election. S is the daughter of I Roosevelt Gentry and M Eula Grazier Gentry, bo of Jackson. As Miss JS Gentry will represent t student body at campu local, state and national active in the Mass Com Government Association Branch of the NAACP. dent chapter of the Natio and is a member of the J

ties & Queens

senior sports medicine
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Student Government
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on Native reigns as Miss

d competitions. She is
ons Club, JSU Student
de Connection and JSU
liamentarian for the stu-
ation of Black Journalists
rs College.

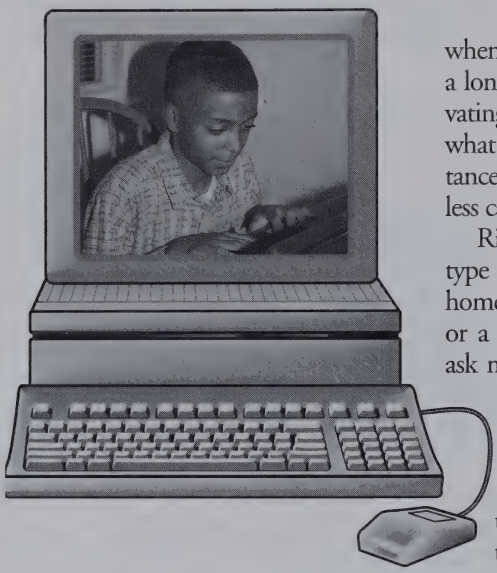
SEBRINA RENE' PALMER is the reigning Miss Alcorn State University. A senior elementary education/mathematics major, Sebrina is a Presidential Scholar and is active in various campus organizations, including Alpha Kappa Mu Honors Society, Student Government Association, Student National Educators Association, NAACP and ASU Ambassadors. Her hobbies include reading and interacting with peers. Her goals are to obtain masters and doctoral degrees in mathematics education.

MARY JESSICA GRANT of Poplarville was crowned Homecoming queen on Saturday October 25, prior to the PRCC-East Mississippi football game. Miss Grant was escorted by her father John Grant, Jr., chair of the PRCC Mathematics and Physics Department.

PRCC President Ted J. Alexander crowned Miss Grant before storms and tornado warning prompted a two-hour game delay.

Do You Need A Computer?

by George W. Allen Jr.



Someone once remarked to me that computers are going to take over society. My response to that was, "Where have you been in the last decade? They have already done so."

In addition to those big systems that scared all of us not so long ago, you know, the ones with spinning tape reals that occupied huge buildings, today you can find a computer everywhere. They are used in so many devices that we hardly realize they are there. They're in such things as digital watches, microwave ovens, VCRs, automobiles, automated teller machines (ATM), slot machines, just to name a few. Believe it or not, the largest use is by the telephone industry. Most people don't realize that when they operate a telephone to make a long distance call, they are really activating a monster. If they only knew what happens to complete a long distance call, they would never make a useless call again.

Right now, let's just talk about one type of computer, the ones we use at home. This type is referred to as a PC or a personal computer. People often ask me if I thought they should buy a personal computer. I then ask if they have children at home. If their answer is "yes" then they have answered their question for themselves. If their answer is "no" then my answer is "maybe." Their next question is normally, "Why is it necessary if children are at home?" The answer is that the computer is the "tool of the future." Computers will be used in college or trade school and in most types of employment in the future.

Computers and kids go together like America and apple pie. Kids learn computers quickly as evidenced by their grasp of the operation of the VCR. (I'm still not sure if I can operate mine!) Kids who use computers increase their reading skills and comprehension, their reasoning and logic abilities; they pad their egos and stimulate their individual creativity, among other things. Kids can improve their home work skills - content and presentation, and the thing I like best is that it occupies their minds.

Of course, they can also play enjoyable and educational games.

Other questions I here are "What is it?" and "What can I do with it?" The definition I like best is one offered by Peter Norton, a computer guru from California who says, "A computer is a tool of the mind." As to what one could do with it, my answer is: "What do you want to do?" For adults, computers can be used to write letters, keep name and address files, make notes of things that might be forgotten, keep budgets, balance check books, keep personal records, study the Bible, and so on.

When you add a device called a modem to the computer, an adult can do such things as track and trade stock, play remote casino games, get world-wide news, go on the Internet for a variety of reasons and correspond via E-mail (electronic mail) and not be limited to just "snail mail" (Post Office mail).

When purchasing a computer system, I do not recommend a purchase by mail; buy from a local distributer. This way you will be able to get the support you need for repairs or help in operating the system.

A computer system consists of the following components:

Central Processor or CPU. This is the brain of the system; it includes:

- **Hard Disk for master storage.** The more storage capacity the better. Make sure you get at least 1 gigabyte which is 1,000 megabytes or one million bytes of storage. A byte is a unit of storage.
- **Floppy Disk Drive.** This drive will be used to put information into the central processor and retrieve information from the central processor.
- **Compact Disk Drive.** This drive allows for a vast amount of information into the central processor. You can also play music on the CD drive.
- **Sound System.** This allows the computer to talk to you, and at times, give you oral instructions.
- **Modem.** This connects your computer to telephone lines which provides the capability for your computer to communicate with other computers and the Internet. The Internet offers access to information on any topic, and it allows subscribers to talk with people around the world, as well as send and receive E-mail letters, search and advertise for jobs, shop for articles of interest, and so on. A modem also allows you to send and receive faxes. Note: Internet providers charge a nominal fee about $20 per month.

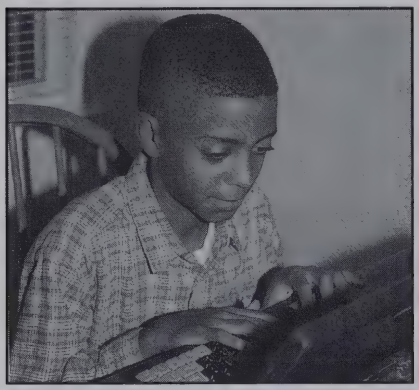
Keyboard. This is the computer's typewriter.

Mouse. This device expedites movement from program to program or within a program.

Color Monitor (TV type screen). This may be sold separately from the CPU.

Printer. Laser and ink jet printers are popular and affordable and can print in color which is great for printing graphics and photographs. A printer is not essential when purchasing a computer and may be added later.

All computers require programs (software) in order to operate. All computer software require a major software package or operation system in order to work. Today, the most commonly used operating systems are called Windows, the older 3.1 and the newer one



Windows 95. Most computers purchased today are supplied with Windows 95. Other software used are referred to as "applications software." Applications refer to specific tasks the computer will perform, such as balancing a checkbook. Some applications may be supplied when you purchase a computer system. As your comfort level increases you will discover other uses for your computer and you will probably choose to add other applications later.

Are computers easy to operate? Not necessarily at first, but they are getting easier to use every day. You may need initial instructions, so that is why I recommend purchasing your computer from a local distributor who can provide instruction and other types of support.

When purchasing a computer for the first time, stick to established brands such as Packard Bell, IBM, Sony, Hewlett Packer, Dell, Gateway (available through mail order but of great value). Tandy which is available through Radio Shack provides great support as does Compaq. Your computer should have expansion capabilities so that you won't outgrow it.

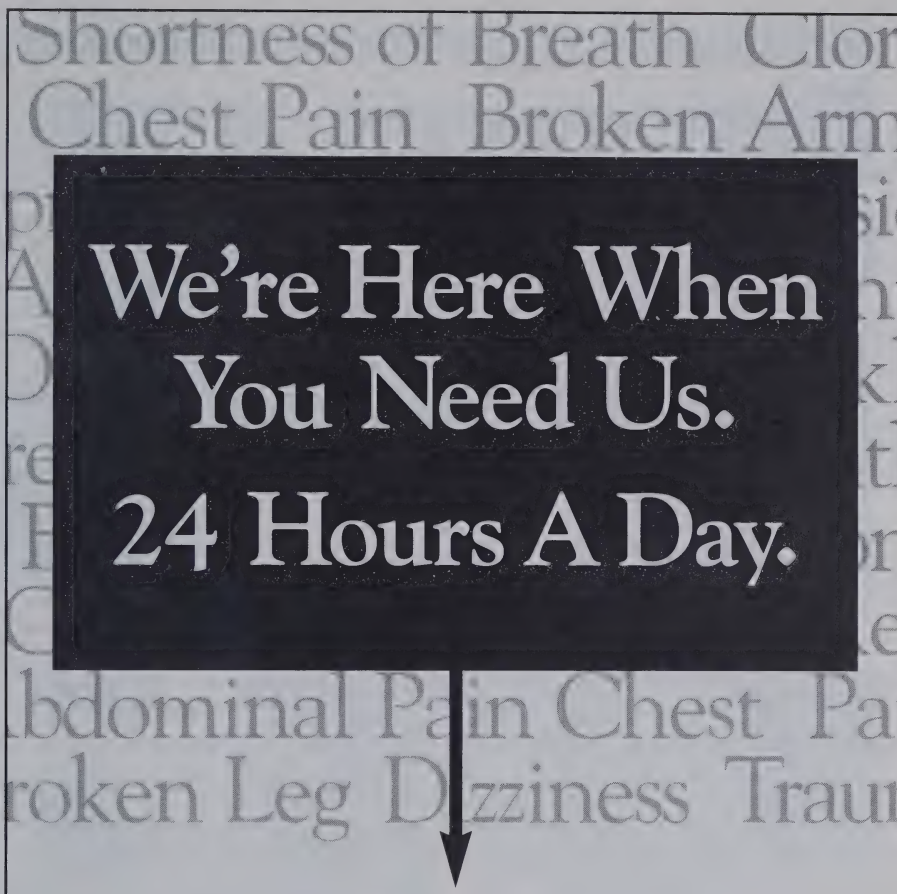
The price of these computers range from approximately $1000-$2500, depending primarily on speed, storage capacity and such goodies as scanners and higher speed modems bundled into the price.

If this seems a little steep, consider the following: There is a new type of computer emerging that uses your TV as a monitor and sound source. It connects to a phone line to make connections to the Internet. Currently an optional printer allows for a hard copy of the information and pictures seen on the screen. It also provides E-mail capabilities.

The price of this type of computer is around $300. Sounds pretty good? At this time, a couple of brands are being sold. I would recommend what I believe to be the more established one which is currently being marketed by a company called "Web TV." This company was recently purchased by Bill Gates who - besides being the richest man in the world - started Microsoft and helped IBM into the personal computer business. This type of computer is expected to evolve into the "computer of the future." It has been forecasted to replace the computers described above.

My final recommendation is... if you want yourself and your children to get into the 21st century, then get a computer now! MS

George W. Allen, Jr. is an independent computer consultant based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A native of Bay St. Louis, and a member of the 1948 graduating class of St. Rose de Lima, Mr. Allen has worked as an electronics teacher and trainer for corporations such as GTE, RCA and Digilog. He is the father of four children, two boys and two girls.



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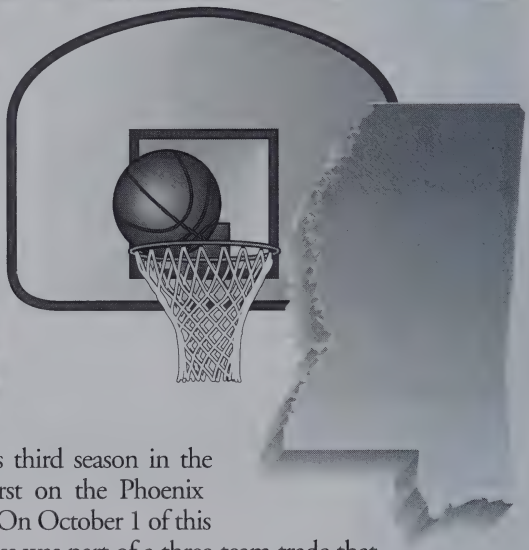
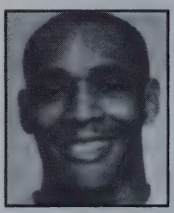
Mississippians in the NBA

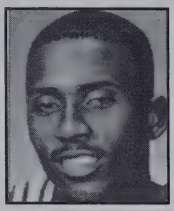


Antonio McDyess is in his third season in the NBA, his first on the Phoenix Suns roster. On October 1 of this year, McDyess was part of a three-team trade that involved the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Denver Nuggets and the Suns. The 6'9" Forward/Center played his first two seasons at Denver, averaging 18.3ppg in his second year and 13.4 during his rookie season. The Quitman, Mississippi native played collegiately at Alabama.

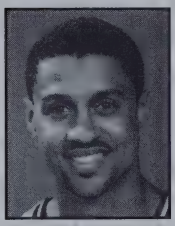


Eric Washington is playing in his rookie season with the Denver Nuggets. The 6'4" guard played four seasons at the University of Alabama and is the school's all-time leader in three-pointers made (252) and attempted (654) in a career. He also holds the record for three pointers made in a season (113) and attempted (279) - 1995-96 season. The Pearl, Mississippi native teamed with three other future NBA players - Jason Caffey, Antonio McDyess and Roy Rogers - to lead Alabama to the second round of the NCAA Tournament in the 1994-95 season. Eric is the son of John and Helen Knight.

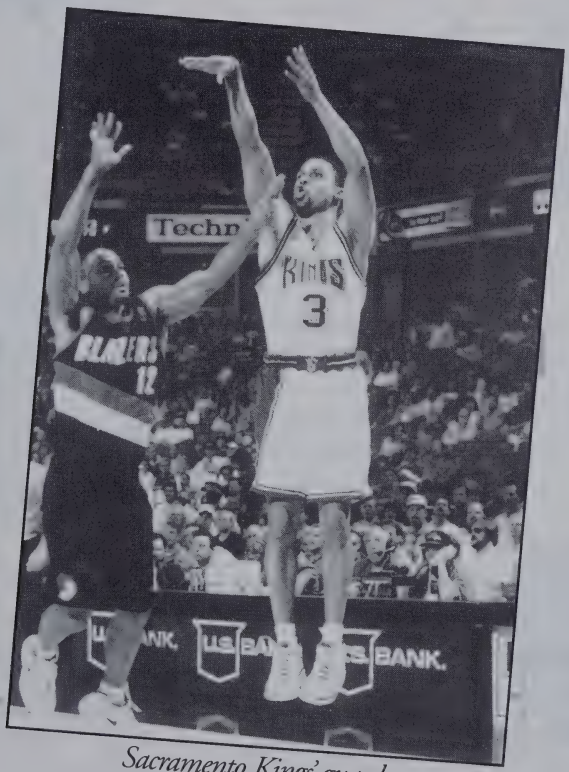
Othello Harrington is in his second season in the NBA as a power forward/center with the Houston Rockets. The 6'9" native of Jackson plays back up to Rockets center Hakeem Olajuwon and forward Kevin Willis. Harrington was the 30th overall pick of the 1996 draft. He played four seasons at Georgetown and prepped at Murrah High School in Jackson.



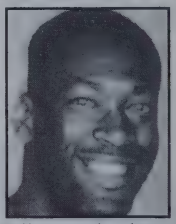
Lorenzen Wright averaged 7.3 points and 6.1 rebounds over the course of 77 games with the Los Angeles Clippers during his rookie season last year. The 6'11" Center/Forward 7.3 points per game ranked 8th in the league among rookies; his 6.1 rebounds per game was third among rookies. The Oxford, Mississippi native played collegiately at Memphis. His father Herb Wright played professional basketball in Finland.



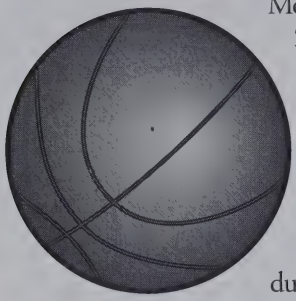
Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf is in his eighth NBA season, his second with the Sacramento Kings. The 6'1" guard finished second on the club in scoring with 13.7 points per game. He scored a season high 31 points at Portland on November 19, 1996. He was the third overall pick in the 1990 draft after playing two seasons at Louisiana State University.
He prepped at Gulfport High School.



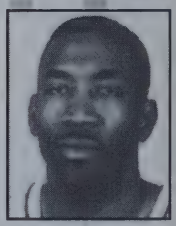
Sacramento Kings' guard
Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf of Gulfport



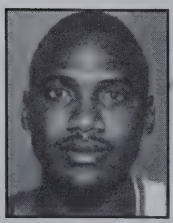
Erick Dampier is in his second NBA season, his first with the Golden State Warriors. The 6'11" center was drafted in the first round of the 1996 draft by the Indiana Pacers. The Monticello, Mississippi native averaged 5.1 ppg during his rookie season. He and teammate Duane Ferrell were traded to the Golden State Warriors for Chris Mullin this past August. Over three seasons of collegiate basketball at Mississippi State University, Dampier's point production improved each season: 11.9 ppg as a freshman; 13.1 ppg as a sophomore; and 14.5 ppg during his final year. Dampier prepped at Lawrence County High School in Monticello.



Clarence Witherspoon is in his sixth season with the Philadelphia 76ers. The 6'7" forward was the team's first-round pick in the 1992 NBA draft. Witherspoon played four seasons at the University of Southern Mississippi and prepped at Motley High School in Columbus.



Derrick McKey is in his eleventh NBA season. The 6'10" forward has played the past four seasons with the Indiana Pacers after six seasons with the Seattle Supersonics. A first-round pick of the Supersonics in 1987, McKey has a career playoff scoring average of 12.1 ppg. He was the ninth overall pick in the 1987 draft after playing three seasons at Alabama. He prepped at Meridian High School.

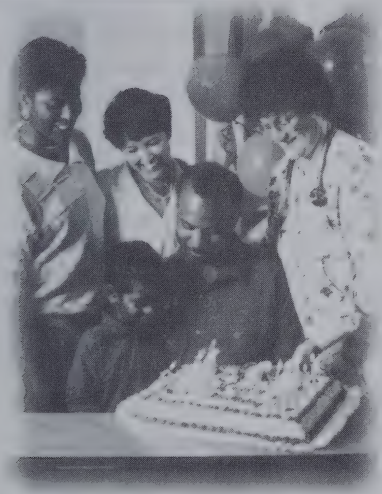


Lindsey Hunter is in his fifth season with the Detroit Pistons. The former Jackson State University Star and first-round NBA pick posted a career best 14.2 ppg over the course of 82 regular season games last year. He boosted his offense to 15.0 ppg during five playoff games. The 6'2" guard prepped at Murrah High School in Jackson.

Early detection

and treatment can help save your life.

An estimated 165,000 new cases of PROSTATE CANCER have occurred among men in the U.S. this year alone. Today, one out of ten men will develop prostate cancer by age 85.



Who is at risk?

Incidence increases with age. Over 80% of all prostate cancers are diagnosed in men over age 65. Rates are 40% higher for black men than white men.

What do I look for?

Prostate cancer warnings include:

- Weak or interrupted urine flow
- Inability to urinate
- Difficulty starting or stopping the urine flow
- The need to urinate frequently, especially at night
- Blood in the urine
- Painful or burning urination
- Continuing pain in lower back, pelvis or upper thighs

What should I do?

Early detection is extremely critical. After 40, a man should have a digital rectal examination with his regular annual physical checkup and an annual prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test at 50 and older. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms described here, contact your physician immediately.

For more information or a physician referral call:

865-DOCS (3627)

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MHG

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GUEST WORD

Greetings Friends!

It's the Holiday Season again. It just doesn't seem possible that it's here so soon again.

During this joyous and reverent season, we would like to take the opportunity to share our warmest wishes for the happiest of seasons to you and your families.

Christmas time may be one of the most popular times of the year. However, we should keep in mind the true meaning of Christmas. It is more than shopping, cleaning, baking, carroling, parties, merriment, anticipation, and exchanging gifts. We must look beyond all that for the true meaning because it is so much more that all that.

Christmas may truly be the best of the holidays if we think of others, especially the less fortunate. Yes, Christmas is about sharing and gift-giving. But, when we give of ourselves, not just to loved ones, but to the truly needy, we extend ourselves beyond our comfortable boundaries. By giving we receive the greatest gifts in the process. We like to think that the sharing mood should extend to the other 364 days of the year.

Christmas is Jesus' birthday. And, though each of us has but one birthday to celebrate each year, can you think of anyone more special than Jesus? Remember, without Him there would be no Christmas.

When you reflect back on your more memorable Christmases, ask yourself what made those holidays so memorable. Was it the gifts? The Food? Family? Togetherness? What? Was it that Christmas you gave the most of your time and effort to help the less fortunate that you most enjoyed?

This year, as you begin your holiday season, we are hopeful that you will accept the gifts of peace, love, happiness and all the joys of the season.

From our home to yours, may you have a safe and holy holiday season. And may the New Year bring you good fortune, peace, love and hope.

Sincerely Yours,
Sharon Singleton and Jimmy Carter
Arlington, Virginia

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The Nail Shop
Price & Company
Rack Room
Radio Shack
Reed's Jeweler's
Reel Collection
Regency Jewelers
Regis Hair Salon
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Highway 98 West at Weathersby Road, Hattiesburg

Always Something New Under The Tree!

Continued from page 16...

During the drafting of this article, Ebony received mail from the Mississippi Bone Marrow Registry. Let me explain. A few months ago, we had a close scare with cancer (leukemia). After discussing the fortunate outcome with Ebony, she went back to school after a weekend visit and decided to participate in a blood and marrow drive. She officially registered to become a bone marrow donor. When I read the notice (yes, I opened her mail), again, I was overcome with emotion. I can't give bone marrow or blood (I'm anemic); however, my daughter's gesture has me reassessing other areas in which I can give..

It takes a community to raise a child. I have had wonderful assistance from a community of family and friends. Although too numerous to name names, I simply want to say thank you for helping a 17-year old mother be so fortunate to parent and have as a dear friend and confidante, my daughter Ebony.

As I pen this final draft, I'm shocked back into reality. Ebony is home for the holidays. She's in my closet, my bedroom, my makeup, my jewelry, etc. From the looks of the laundry room, she hasn't washed clothes since her last visit. I failed to mention, this wonderful child is also a 'slob' in the housekeeping department. Some things never change...

Another flashing light, I'm no heavyweight in the housekeeping department, either. Hug your child often because one day you'll long to do that and you'll be separated by puberty or distance. MS

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Kreole Elementary School Commits to Remaining Drug-Free

(Left to Right) Kentara Smith, Aubreika Roberson, Alonzo Miller, Meagan Aultman and Marisa Moore, at Kreole Elementary School, give the school's drug-free assembly their full attention. The assembly included performances by the school's choir, under the direction of music teacher Carolyn Smoke; as well as an appearance by Ali the drug dog; and speeches by Reverend D.A. Graham and WBLX announcer Mark "The Shark" Fisher. The school has an active drug-free program that focuses on the theme: "There is No Stopping Us" if we remain drug-free throughout our lives.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Under the authority of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d-1 (Title VI), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794 ("Section 504"), the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD" or "The Department") conducted a compliance review of the Housing Authority of the City of Biloxi, Mississippi ("the Authority" or "BHA"). The compliance review was conducted on June 4-6, 1997, and June 18-24, 1997, and focused on the BHA's application process, tenant selection and assignment policies and practices, program accessibility, provision of reasonable accommodations, and treatment of residents and applicants.

On August 14, 1997, the Department issued a letter of findings, and concluded that the authority was not in compliance with Title VI and Section 504 and their respective implementing regulations at 24 CFR Parts 1 and 8.

On August 26, 1997, BHA signed a Voluntary Compliance Agreement (VCA) with HUD and the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity to address the issues raised in the letter of findings and the BHA's responsibility under the civil rights statutes enforced by HUD.

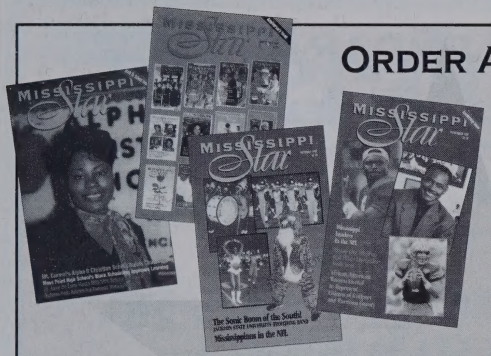
As required by the VCA, the BHA agrees to refrain from discriminating against any person in violation of Title VI, Section 504, and Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. §§ 3601-3619 (the "Fair Housing Act" or "the Act") and to refrain from retaliating against any person who has exercised his/her civil rights; has participated in any manner with respect to the above-referenced compliance review; or participated in any manner in protecting the civil rights of BHA's residents.

Furthermore, the BHA has adopted the following nondiscriminatory policies:

1) Policy Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment
2) Policy Concerning Reasonable Accommodations and Discrimination of the basis of disability
3) Reasonable Accommodation Procedures
4) Grievance and Complaint Processing
5) Procedures for Handling Harassment and Discrimination
6) Revised Resident Dwelling Lease, Grievance Procedures, and Rules and Regulations
7) Admissions and Continued Occupancy Plan
8) Tenant Selection and Assignment Plan

NOTE: The Biloxi Housing Authority will maintain a list of local civil rights organizations interested in the operations of the BHA. Interested groups should notify the BHA Executive Director, in writing, if they wish to receive notice of its actions, activities and BHA Commission meetings.

All questions and comments should be directed to Pete Capuano, Acting Executive Director, P.O. Box 447, Biloxi, MS 39533; Phone (228)374-7771, TDD accessible.



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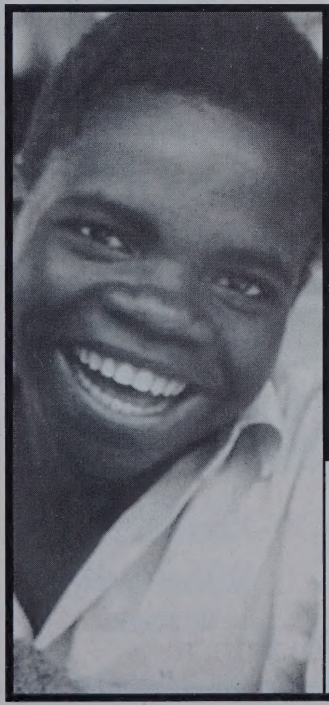

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WENDY'S

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 9
Hancock County Branch
NAACP
Monthly Meeting
Valena C. Jones Methodist
Church
Bay St. Louis, MS
7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 13
Gulf Coast Small Business
Open House
Unique Fashion
2622 Executive Place
Behind Edgewater Mall
Door Prizes, Gift Certificates
& Refreshments
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 13
Omega Psi Phi Franternity, Inc.
Annual Christmas Dance
North Gulfport Elks Club
9:00 p.m. - Until

DECEMBER 26 - JANUARY 1
Gulf Coast Kwanzaa
Celebration
(See ad on page 9 for locations)

DECEMBER 31
Liberty Bowl
University of Southern Mississippi
& University of Pittsburg
Memphis, Tennessee
2:30 p.m.

INFORM US OF YOUR SCHEDULED EVENTS!

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Bay St. Louis, MS 39521
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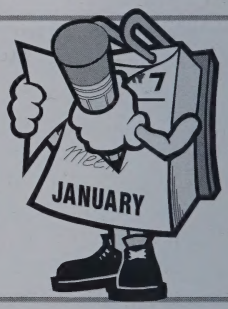

• REGISTRATION - JANUARY 8, 1998 •

The University of Southern Mississippi
Gulf Coast

(Holiday Schedule: Offices Closed Dec. 23 - Jan. 4, 1998)

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